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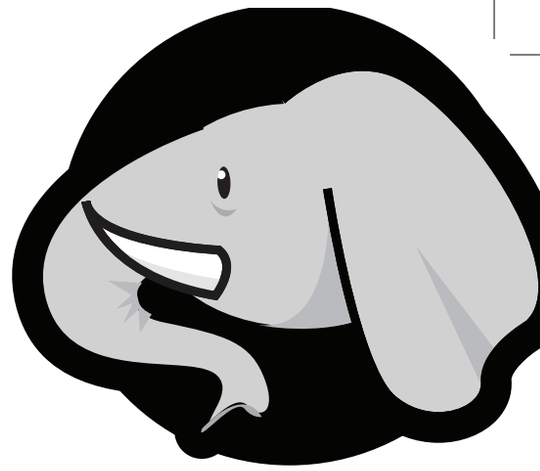

Learning to Play Piano

for the Very Young

with

Debbie and Friends

By Marty Gold and Debbie Cavalier

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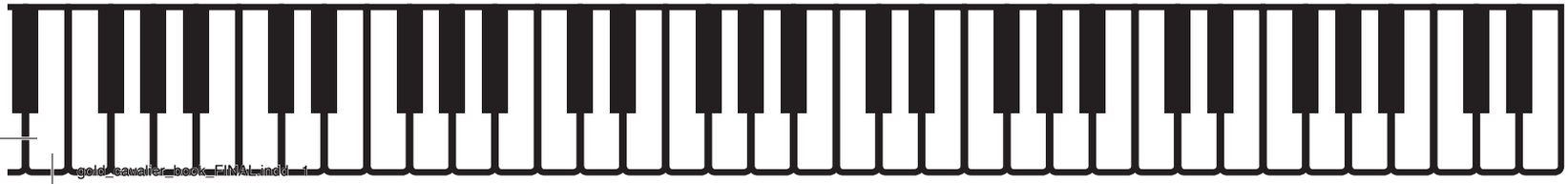

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MARTY GOLD *has enjoyed a diverse career in music. He toured with an 18-piece swing band called the Korn Kobblers as an arranger/pianist in the 1940s. Their best-selling records played on 175 radio stations daily in their heyday. Marty left life on the road and soon became an A&R man for RCA Records in NYC. He arranged and produced such artists as Sarah Vaughn, Peter Nero, Lena Horne, and Marian McPartland. He also led The Marty Gold Orchestra and arranged, conducted, and recorded dozens of records for RCA, Decca, and others. Marty Gold is also Debbie's Grandpa!*

DEBBIE CAVALIER *is the Dean of Continuing Education at Berklee College of Music. A prolific author, she has penned more than 100 music method books and arrangements. Her favorite projects are the ones she gets to do with her grandfather! Debbie is also an award-winning kids/family musician with "Debbie and Friends." For more information, please visit www.debbieandfriends.net*

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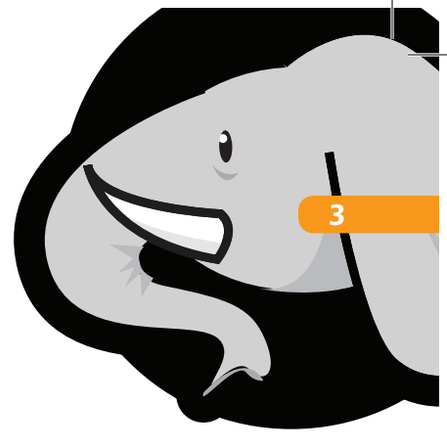

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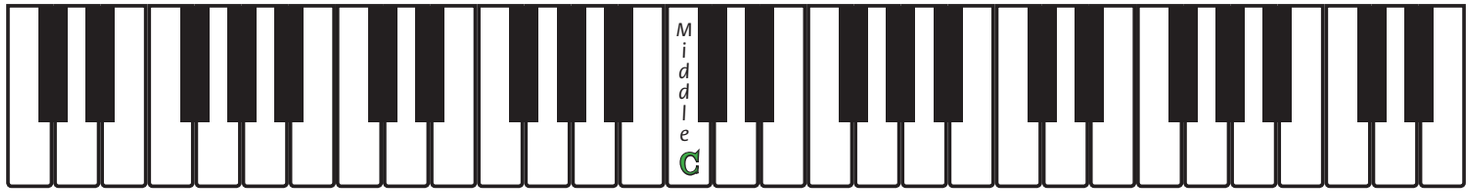
The Piano Keyboard

The piano keyboard makes low, middle and high sounds. Play a few keys in the middle of the keyboard, then on each end. Do you hear the low, middle, and high sounds?



The piano keyboard has black keys and white keys. The black keys are divided into groups of two and three.

Two black keys

Three black keys

Draw a circle around all of the groups of two black keys. Put an X over the groups of three black keys.

Musical Alphabet

Music notes have letter names, just like the alphabet. The musical alphabet goes from A to G.

A B C D E F G

Here are some pictures to go with each letter of the musical alphabet.

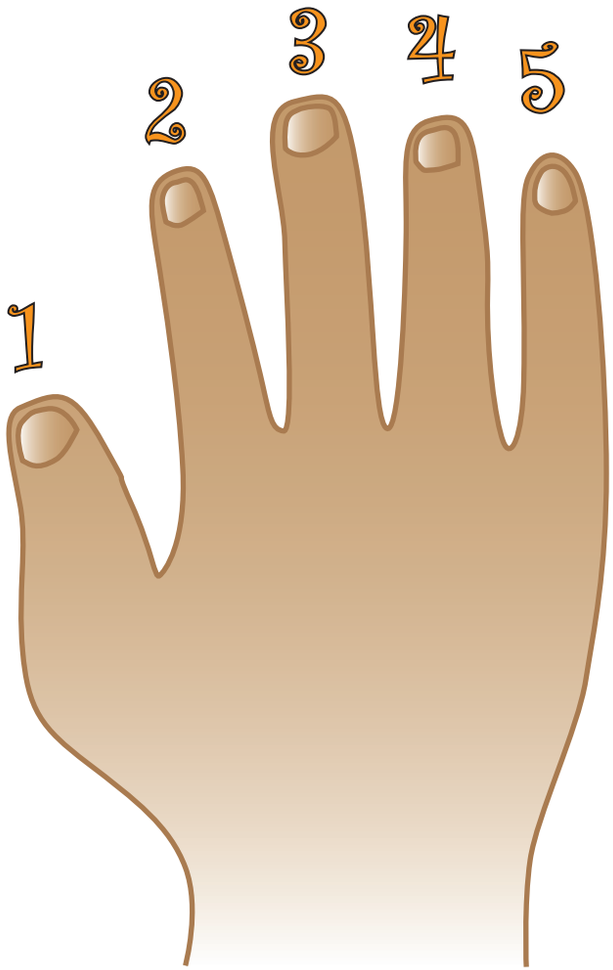
A B C D E F G

Can you fill in the letter under each picture?

A _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

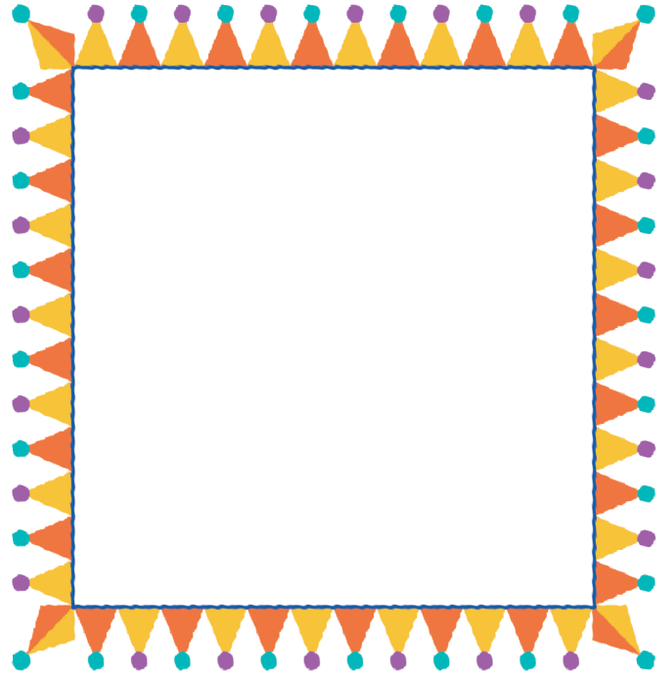
Right Hand Numbers

All of the music you play in this book will be with your right hand.



My Right Hand

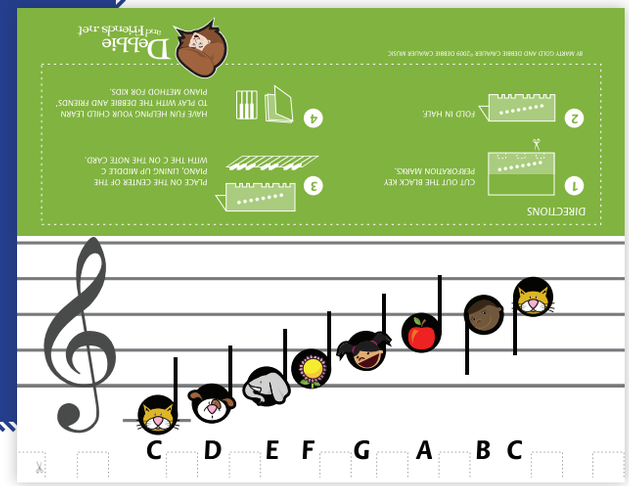
Draw a picture of your right hand and write in your finger numbers as shown at right.



PARENT'S NOTE **The Keyboard Tent**

The *Learning to Play the Piano for the Very Young* book comes with a Keyboard Tent to help your child remember the names of the notes. Directions are on the back of the tent card. Please prepare the keyboard tent and place on the piano.

Note, the keyboard tent is designed for full-size piano keys. It is not compatible with smaller-sized piano keyboards.



Rhythm and Beats

Quarter Notes

Some music notes move along with a steady beat. Each note gets one count or beat.

Count:

1 2 3 4

Clap and count:

1 2 3 4

These steady beats are called QUARTER NOTES *and they look like this:*

1 2 3 4

Half Notes

You will also play music notes that move more slowly. They hold their notes for two counts or beats each.

Clap and count:

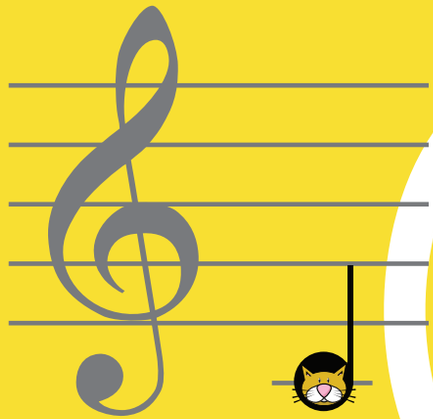
1 2 3 4

These slower notes are called HALF NOTES *and they look like this:*

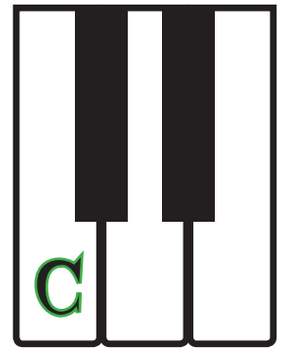
1 2 3 4

C is for Cat

Let's learn some music notes so we can begin to play songs!

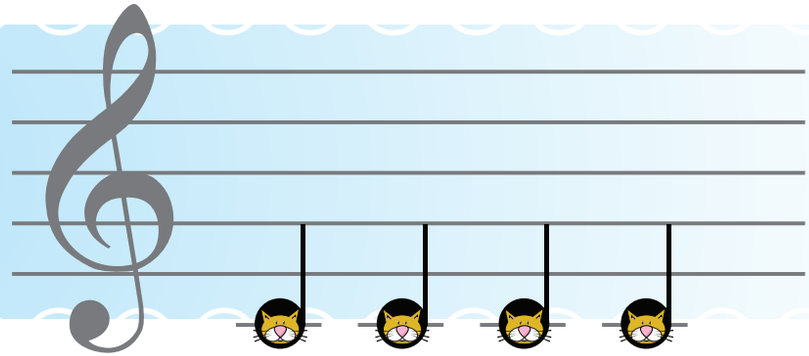


C is the white key just before the group of two black keys on your piano keyboard.

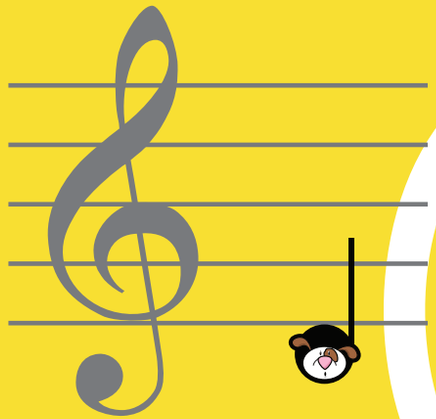


Practice

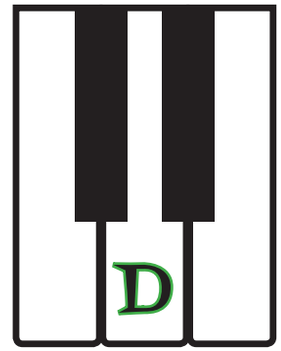
1. Find the C key on your piano and play it with your thumb (1).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



D is for Dog

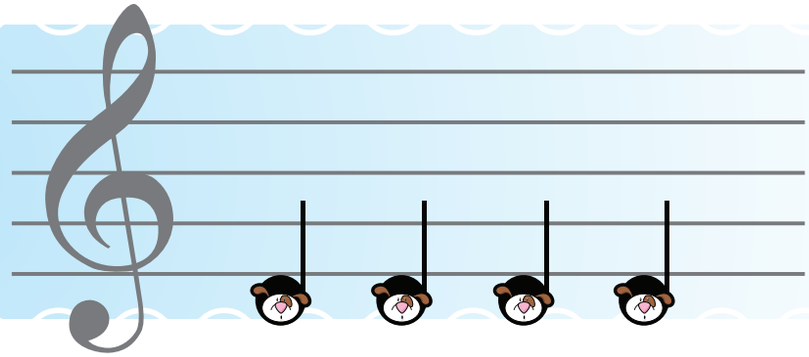


D is the white key between the group of two black keys on your piano keyboard.

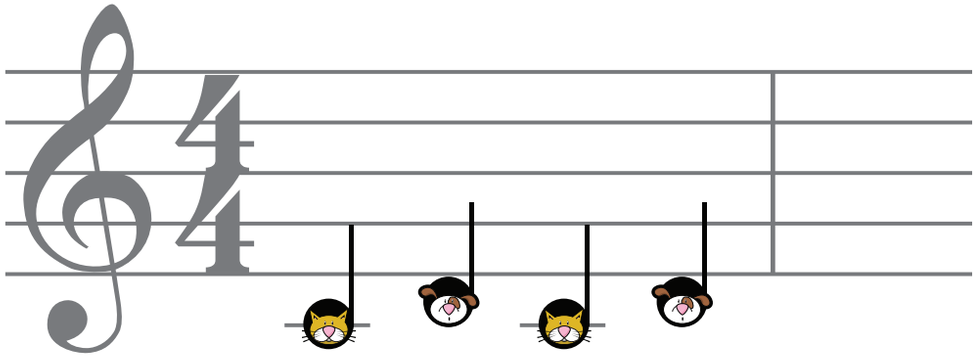


Practice

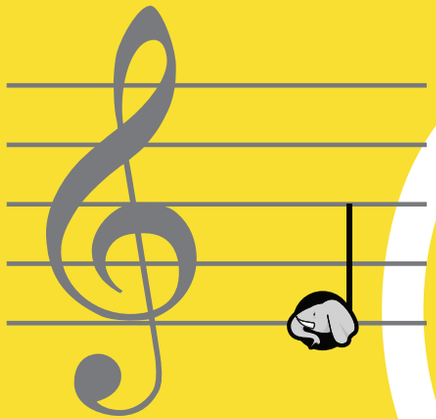
1. Find the D key on your piano and play it with your pointer finger (2).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



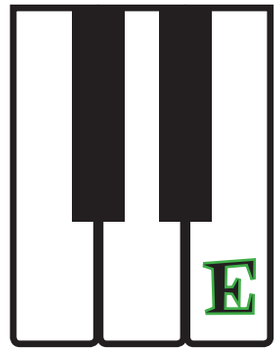
Put it all together



E is for Elephant

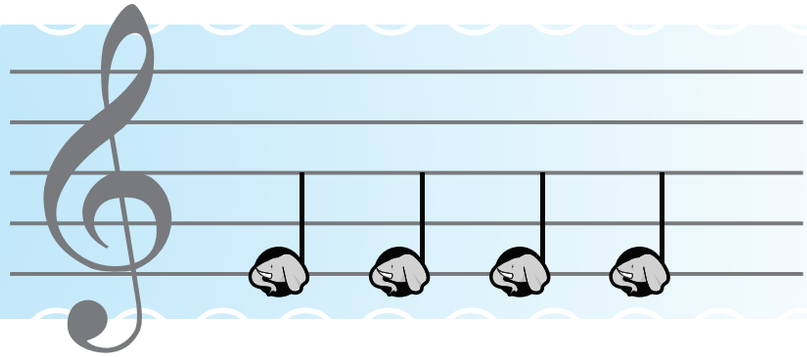


E is the white key after the group of two black keys on your piano keyboard.

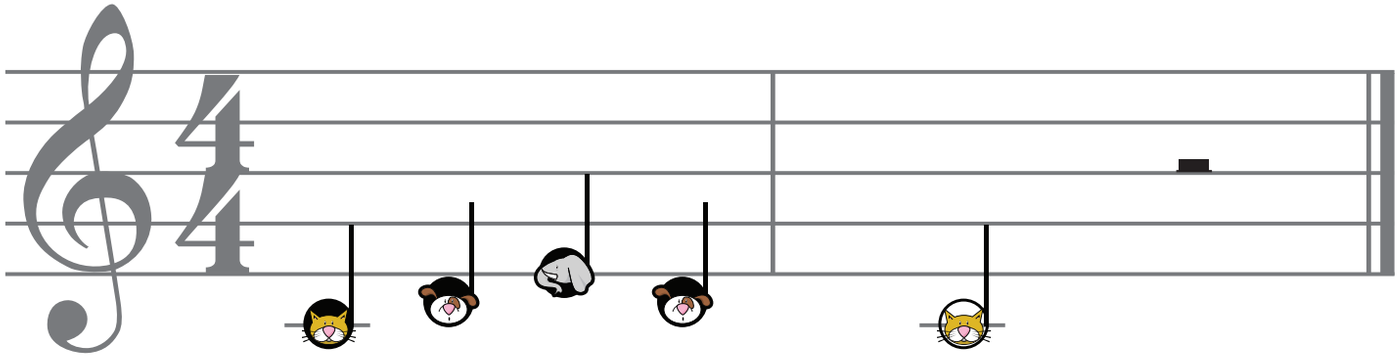


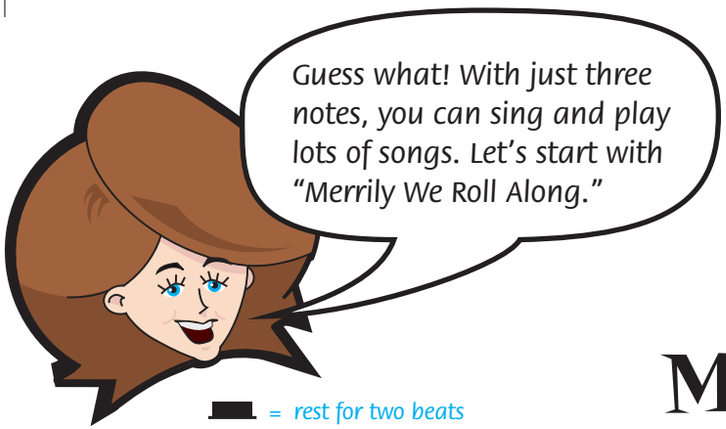
Practice

1. Find the E key on your piano and play it with your middle finger (3).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



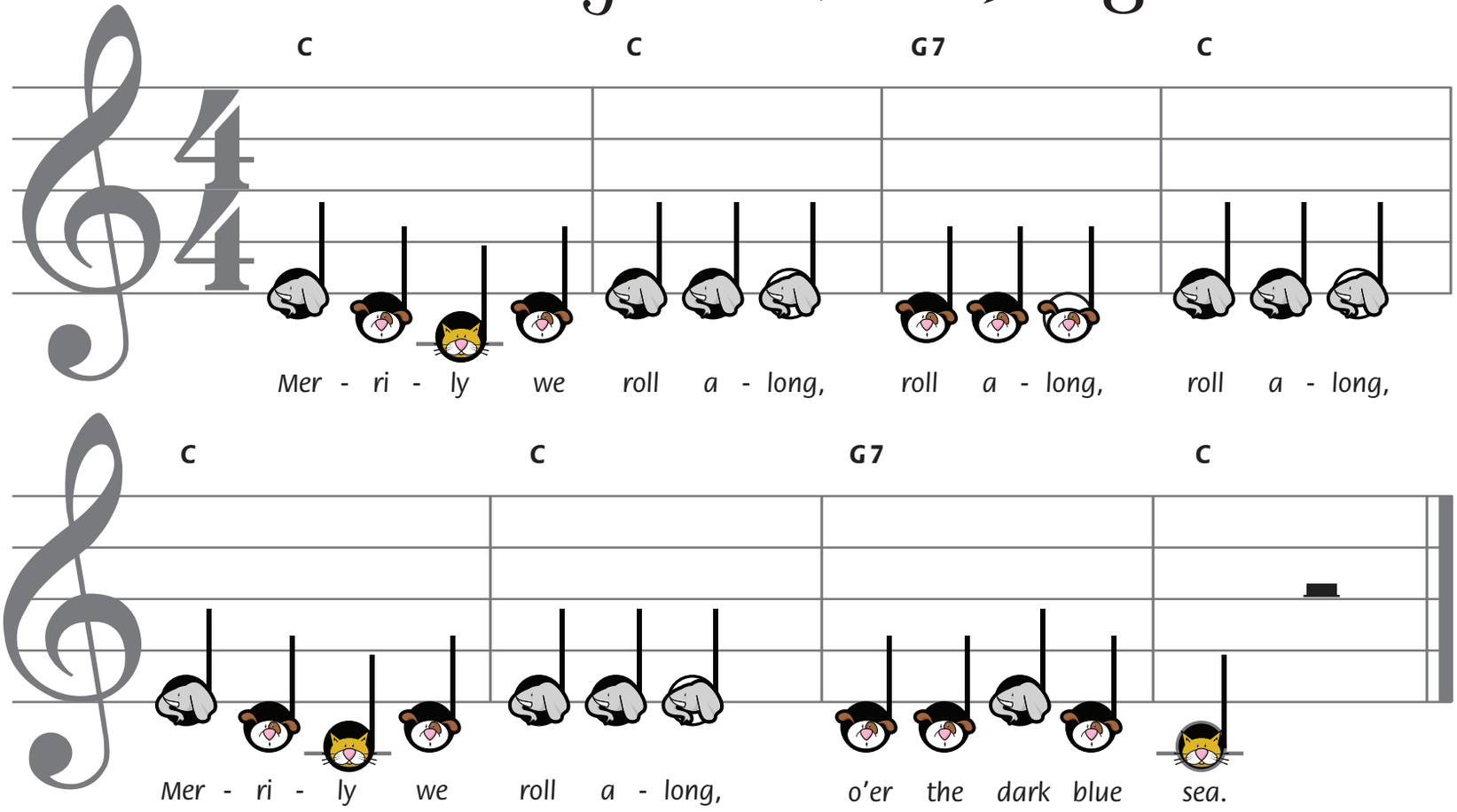
Put it all together





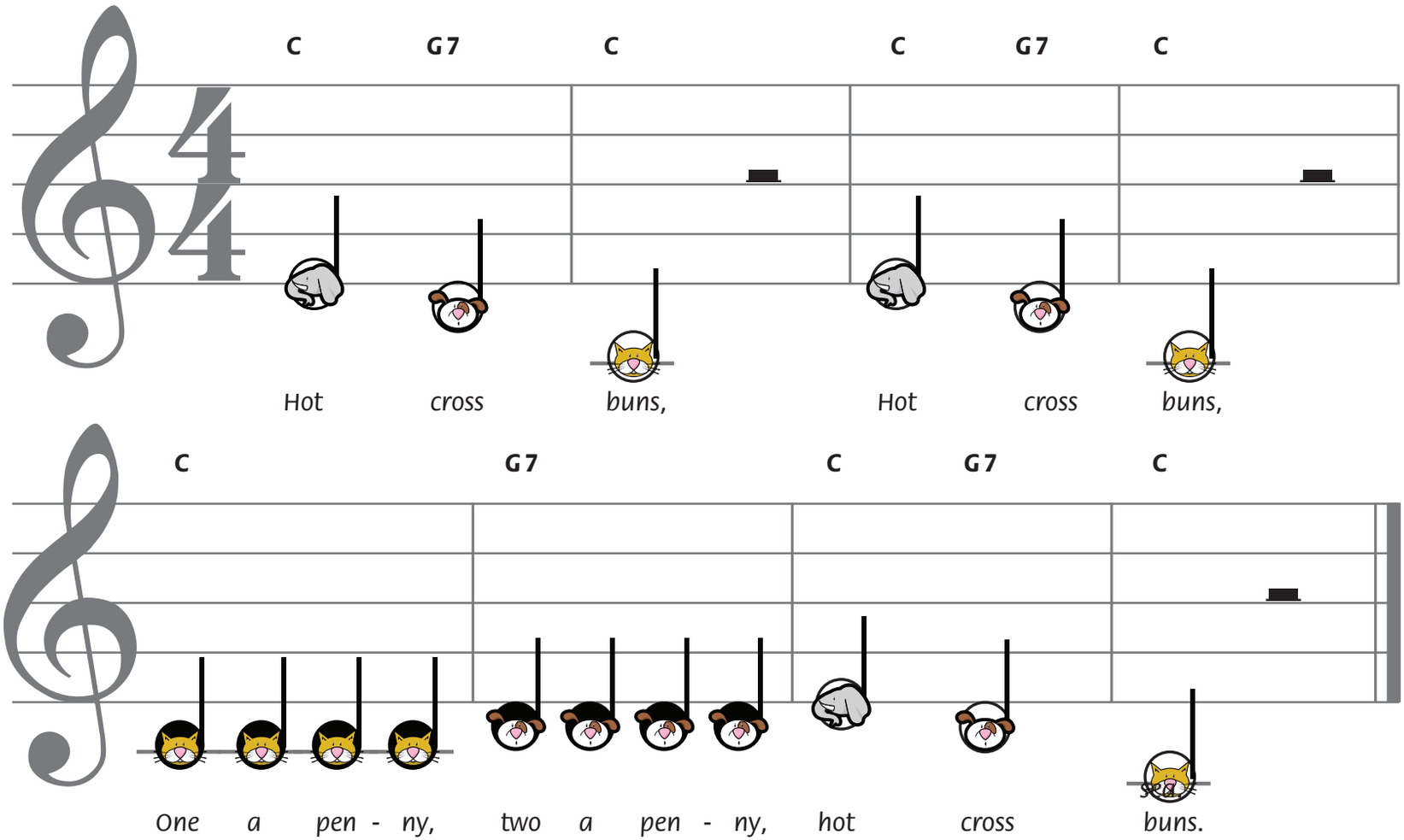
= *rest for two beats*

Merrily We Roll Along

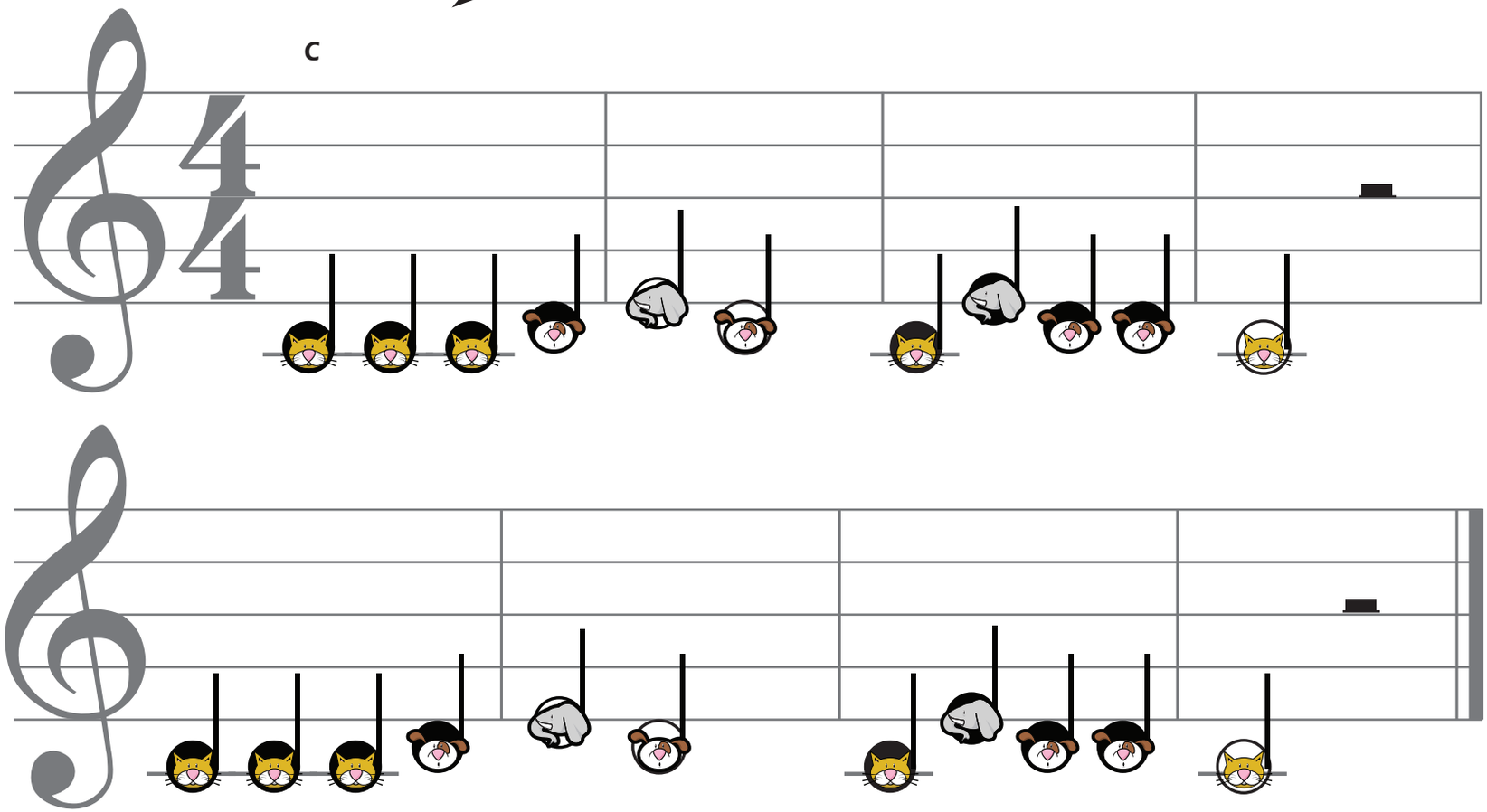


PARENT'S NOTE **Chord Symbols** Chord symbols are provided for every song for play-along fun. A guitar chord chart is provided on page 22.

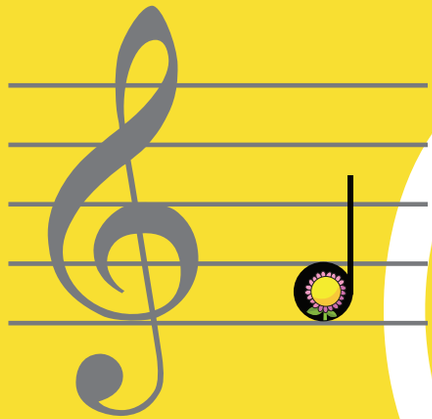
Hot Cross Buns



Au Clair de la Lune



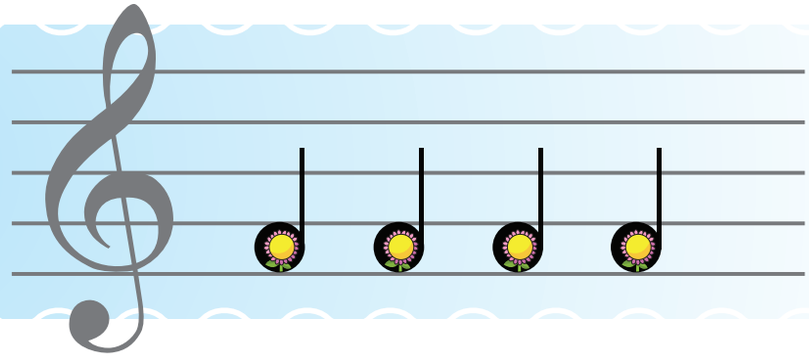
F is for Flower



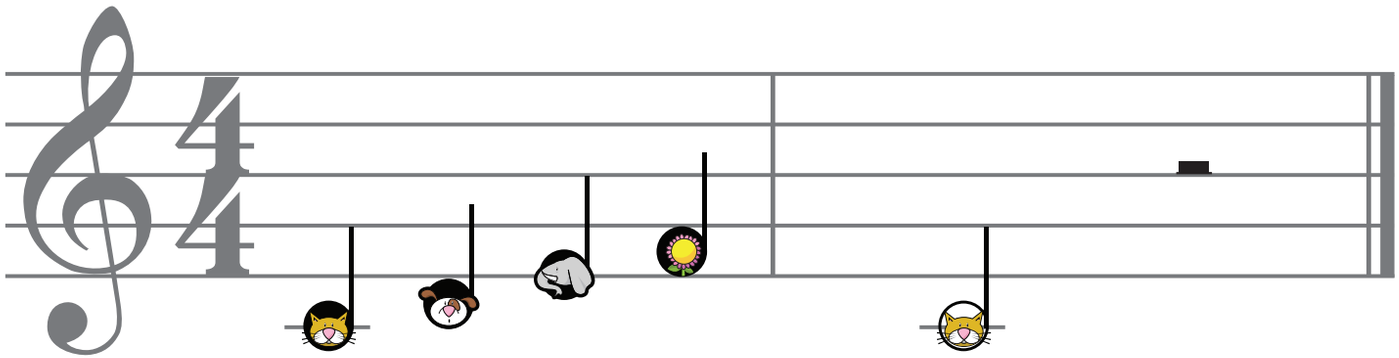
F is the white key located before the three black keys on your piano keyboard.

Practice

1. Find the F key on your piano and play it with your ring finger (4).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.

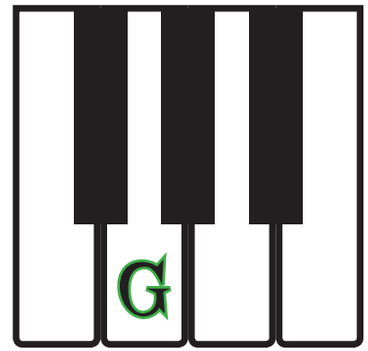


Put it all together



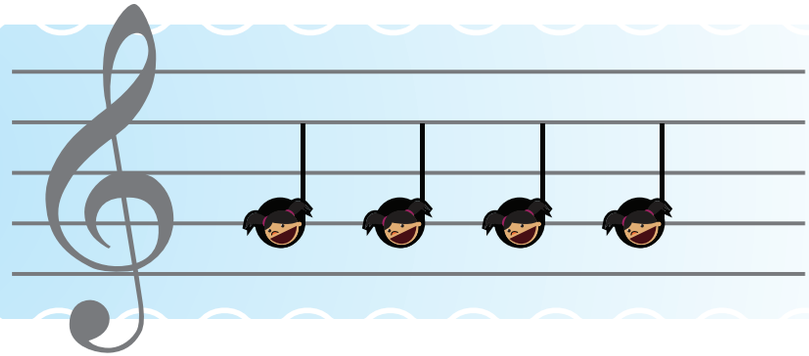
G is for Girl

G is the white key next to F on your piano keyboard.

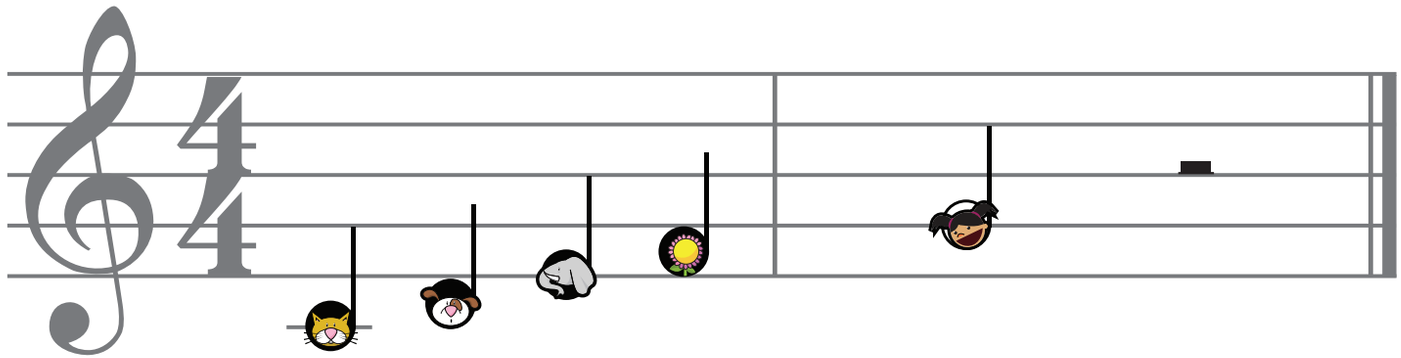


Practice

1. Find the G key on your piano and play it with your pinky (5).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



Put it all together



Jingle Bells

Traditional

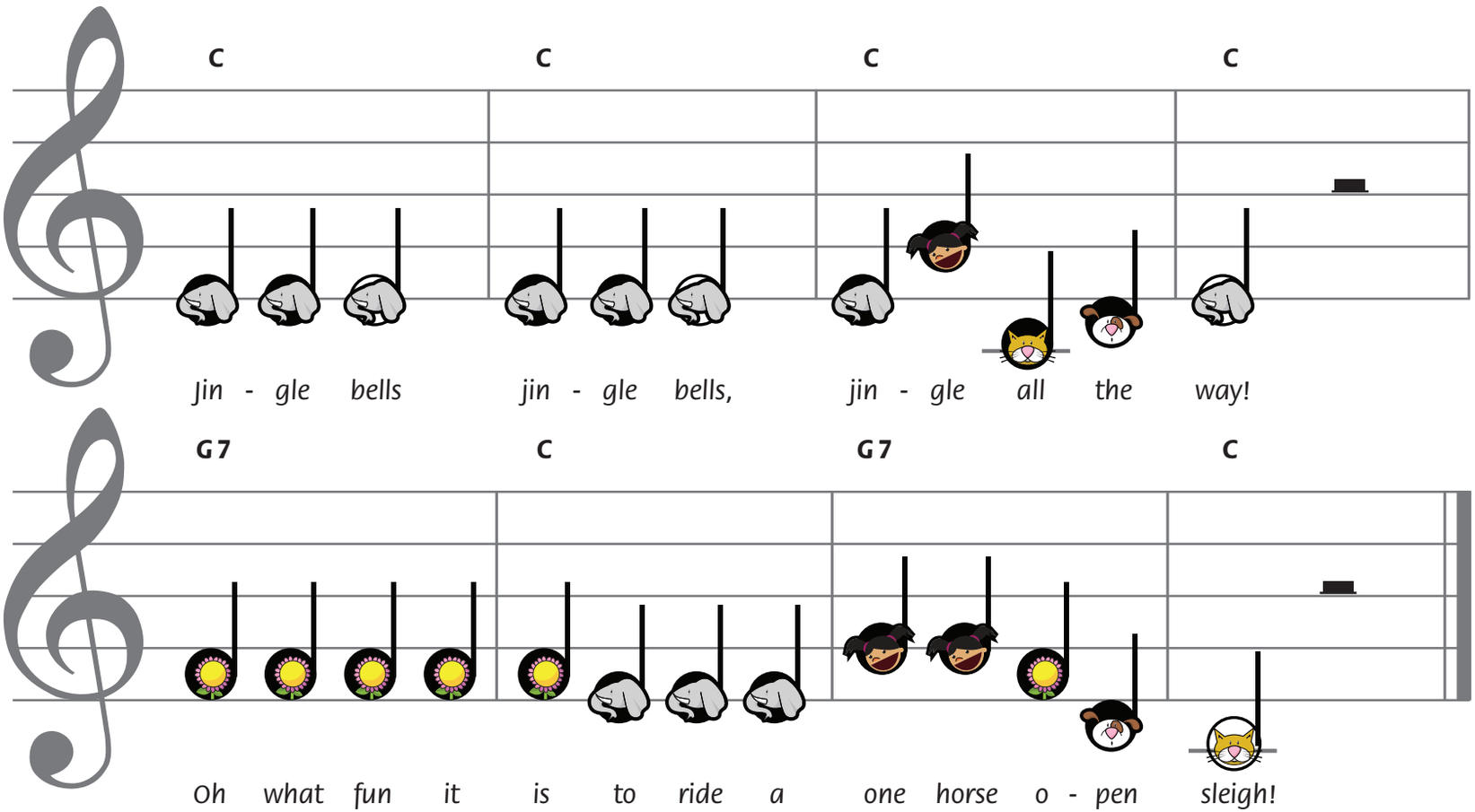
C C C C

4/4

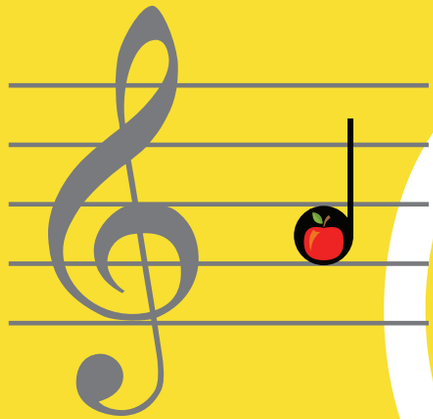
Jin - gle bells jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way!

G7 C G7 G7

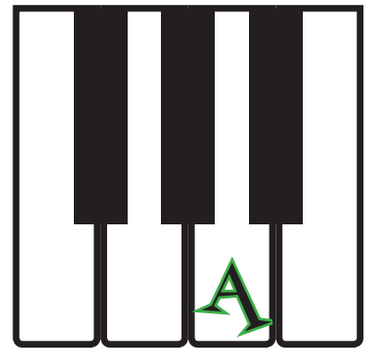
Oh what fun it is to ride a one horse o - pen sleigh! ____


C C C C
Jin - gle bells jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way!
G7 C G7 C
Oh what fun it is to ride a one horse o - pen sleigh!

A is for Apple

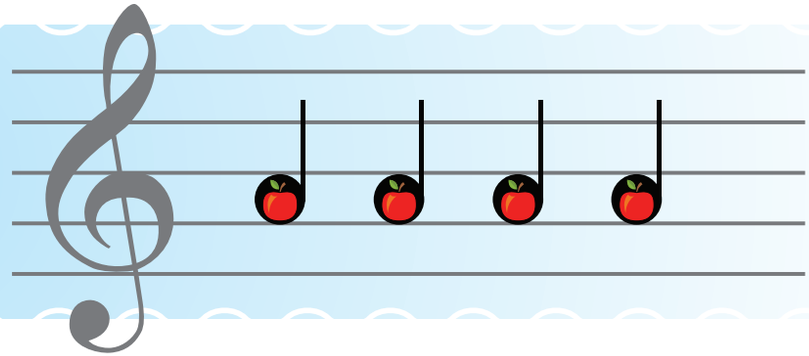


A is the white key next to G on your piano keyboard. You'll need to **s-t-r-e-t-c-h** your pinky to play it.

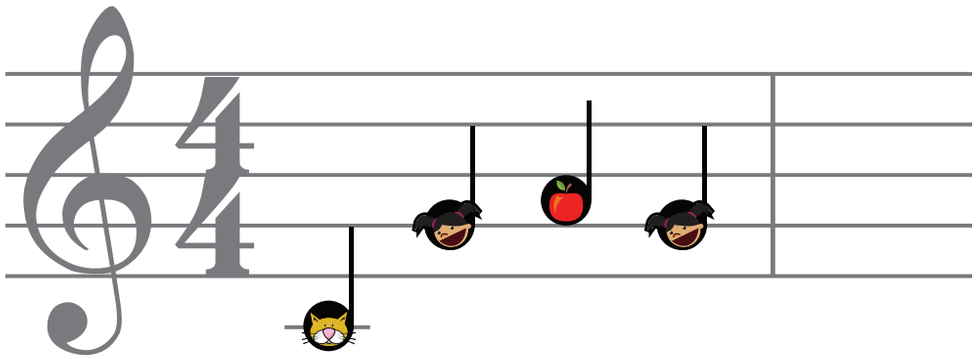


Practice

1. Find the A key on your piano and play it with your pinky (5).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.

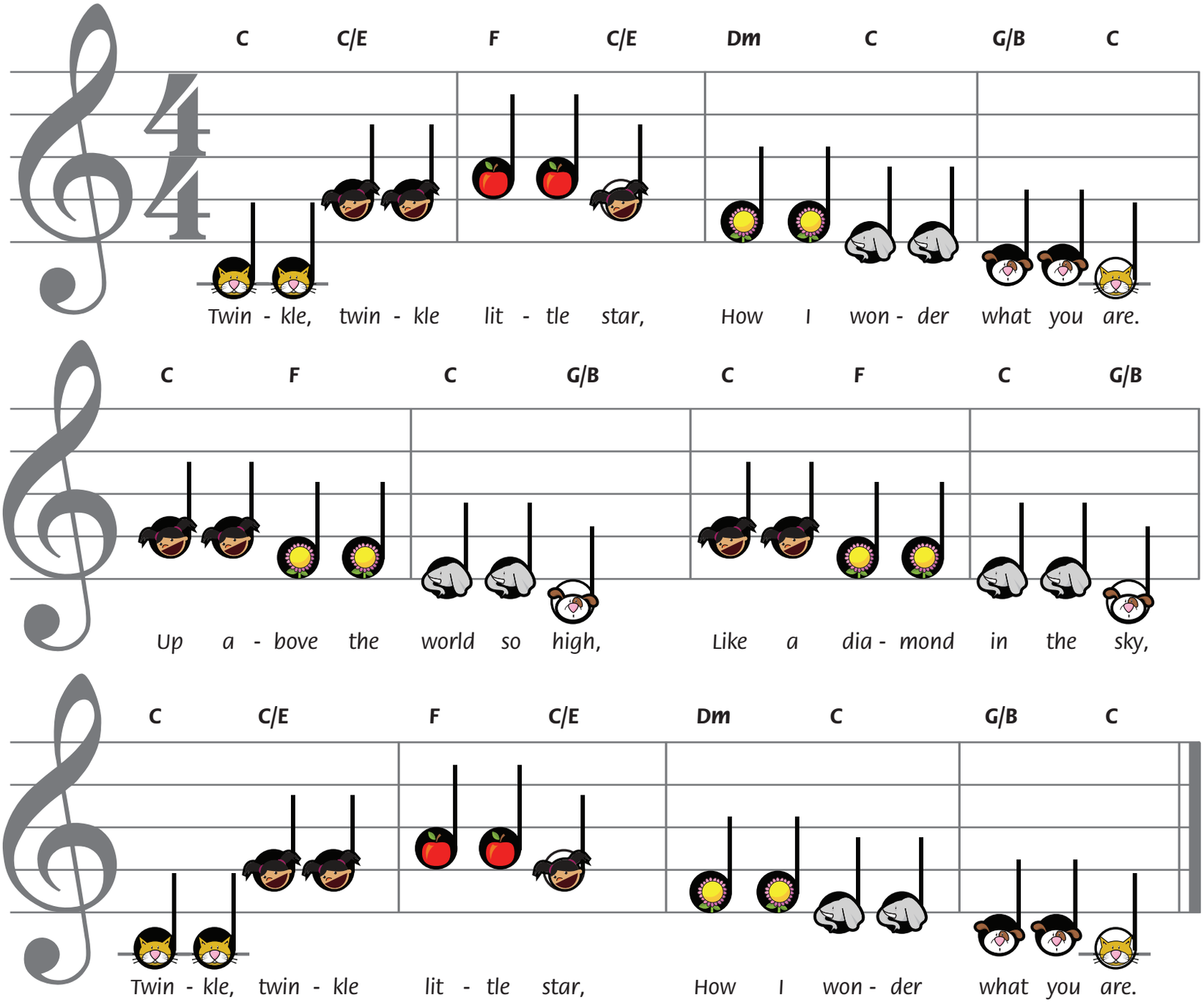


Put it all together



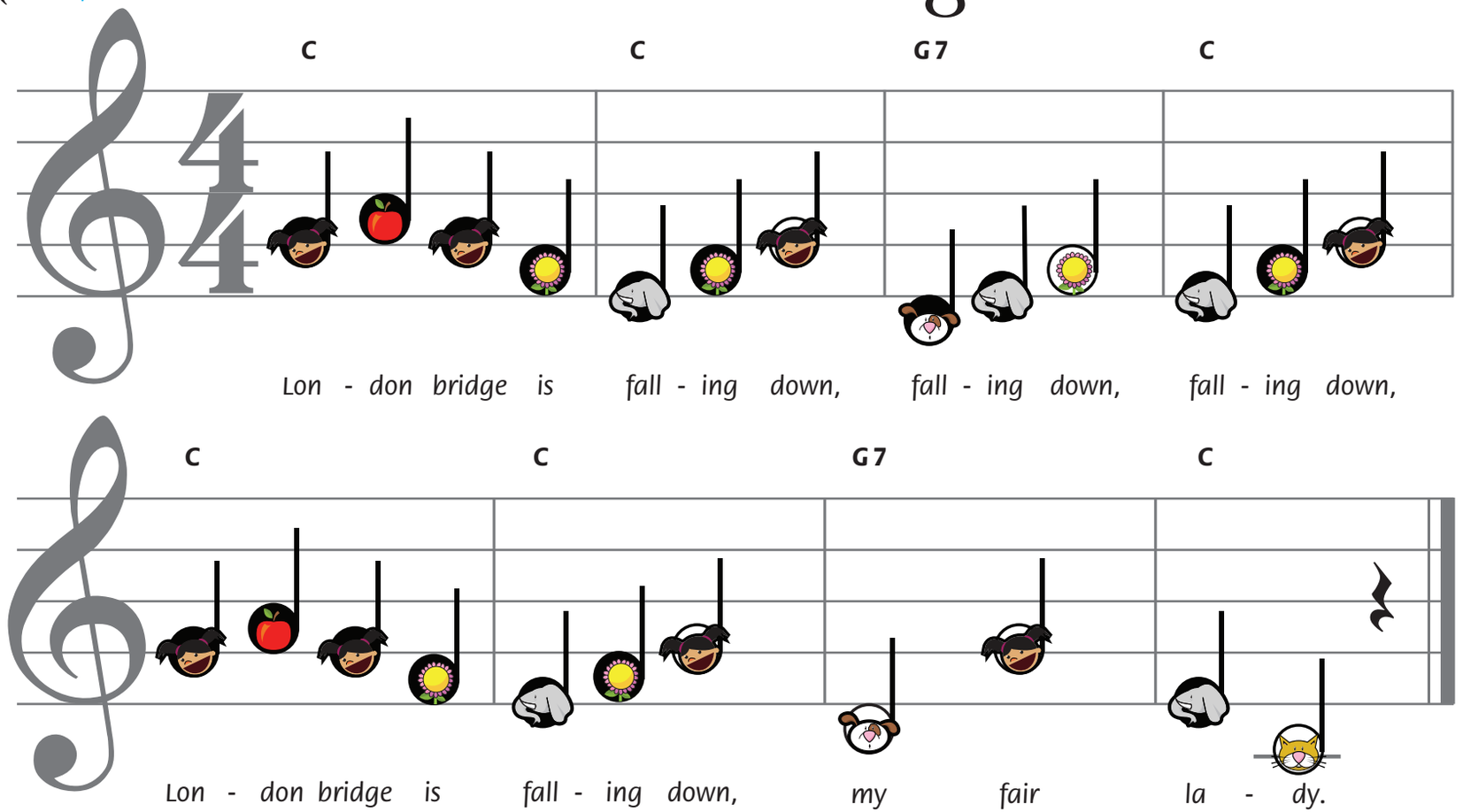
Pinky s-t-r-e-t-c-h

Twinkle, Twinkle



London Bridge

= *rest for one beat*



Rhythm and Beats

EIGHTH NOTES

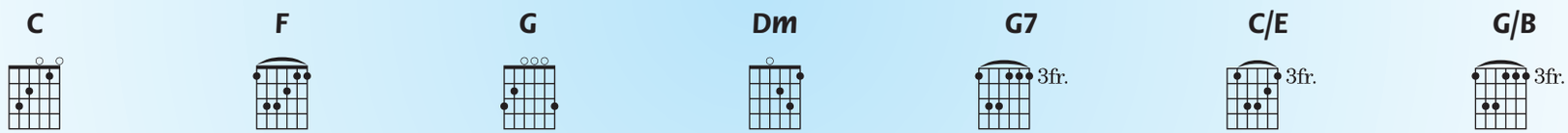
There is another kind of music note that moves along pretty quickly. It's so fast, in fact, that you have to play two of them for each count or beat.

Clap and count:

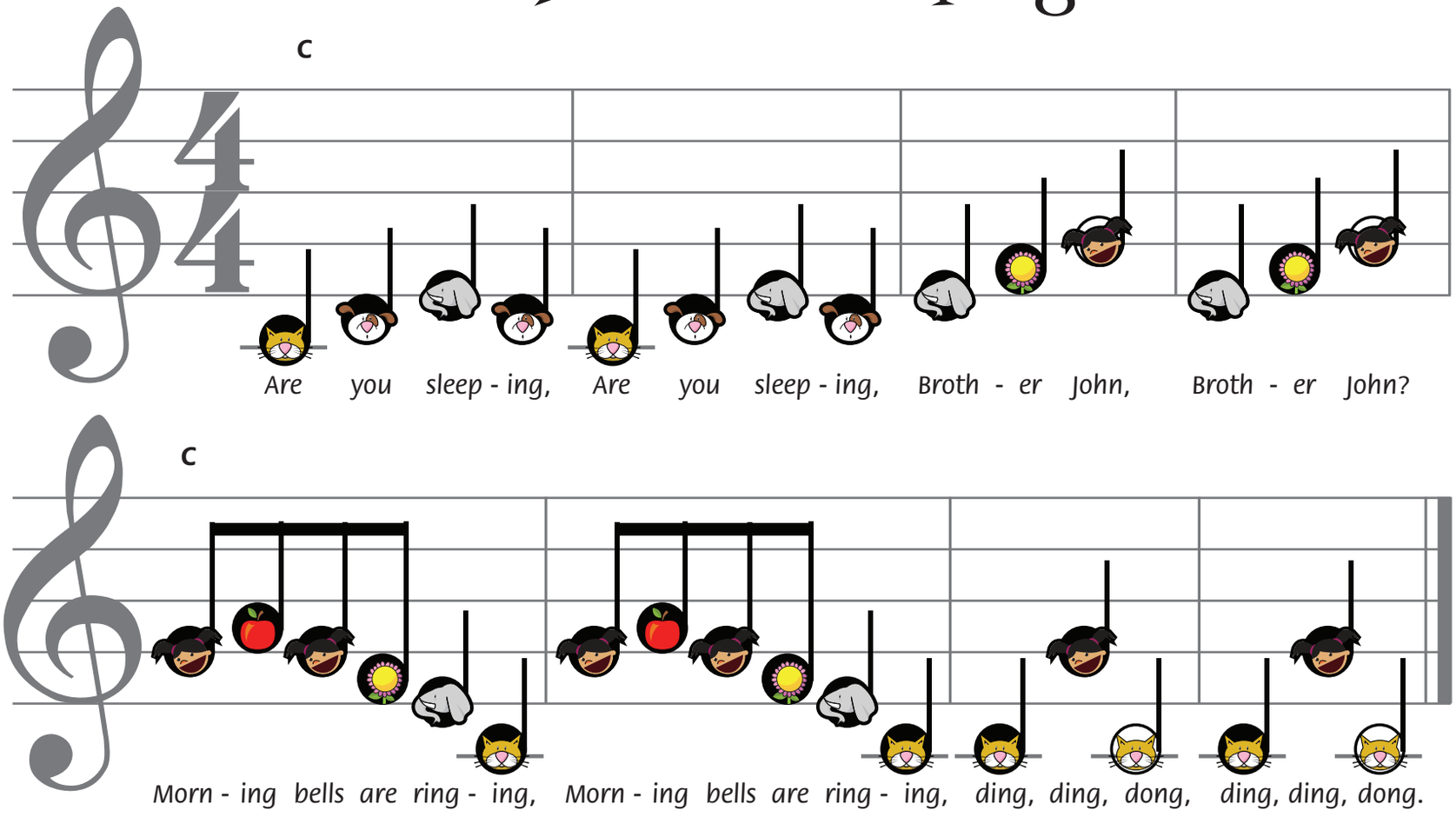
These fast beats are called EIGHTH NOTES *and they look like this*

Guitar Chord Chart

Here are all of the guitar chords used in this book.



Are You Sleeping?



This certifies that

_____

has successfully completed the Learn to Play Piano Debbie and Friends Method!

_____

Date